"TYPE n TALK" . . . newsletter . . . Volume 1 Number 4 December 91

S
362.4283
Gltntn
1991-
V.1, #4

MERRY CHRISTMAS *** HAPPY NEW YEAR
MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO ENHANCE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE DURING 1992

1991 was a happy year for Montana, and the millions of hearing and speech impaired in this country. Not since the telephone was invented have the hearing/speech impaired been blessed with a more appropriate gift . . . making that simple telephone call.

May 9, 1991 was a memorable day for Montana. Governor Stephens completed Montana's first telephone relay call. This call was witnessed by an audience of 250, including Rep. Diane Wyatt. The **real impact** of relay services was highlighted when a deaf boy put through his first relay call to his grandmother in IRAN.

The Governor's Committee on Telecommunications for the Telephone Impaired met in Great Falls November 21st. A special thanks goes to Barb Ranf and US WEST for helping with the hors d'oeuvres. At this meeting, the committee approved **a very special Christmas gift** for Montana relay users. After January 1st, relay calls will be allowed into Montana from other states, using the Montana relay center. In addition, Montana residents traveling outside of Montana will be able to make relay calls to another state using the Montana relay center; **provided** the call is charged to a Montana based telephone number or calling card.

********** BULLETIN **********

Some relay users are being charged for **local calls** on their telephone bills. This is a billing error that was not expected. The problem is being worked on, so please be patient. In the meantime, call AT&T at 1-800-222-0300 and ask for an adjustment. Also, when calling this 800 number ask for a review of your previous months bill to make sure you did not pay for **local relay calls** the month before. If you still require further assistance, please contact our AT&T representative, Becky Plaggemeyer, in Helena at 406-449-6777 or statewide at 1-800-562-6828.

Did you know that ADA requires all emergency 9-1-1 centers to be TDD accessible by January 26, 1992? Response from a recent survey indicates that emergency services may not be ready yet. All of the following questions were answered with a "no".

Is all equipment now TDD compatible? Are emergency personnel well trained to operate TDD's; are they skilled in communicating with the deaf? What happens when there is an emergency, and the respond time is slow or not there? **Will you still be alive?**

Call your local emergency services organizations (police, fire, sheriff, hospital, doctor, etc.) and let them know that you need and appreciate TDD access to their services—today.

Some names you might remember on you Christmas card list this year. Without the special efforts of these people, and many others, relay services would still be a "DREAM" for Montana: Rep. Diane Wyatt, Gov. Stan Stephens, Julie Robinson, Ben Havdahl, Flo Ellen Hippe, John Delano, Diana Dowling, Sheri Devlin, Eric Eck, Norm Eck, Rolph Foster, Sue Jackson, Robert Little, Joan Mandeville, Floyd McDowell, Thomas McGree, Becky Plaggemeyer, Barbara Ranf, Ed VanTighem, Hank Hudson, Charlie Rehbein, Earl Fred, Paul Stav, Gary Ward, Norm Lisy, and Melba Rodriguez.

Dan, Kryss, Nancy, and members of the Gov's committee wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

"PawsAbilities", Montana's first **HEARING DOG PROGRAM** is located in Missoula, and can be reached by calling 1-800-368-7297 (TDD).

BEGINNING IN 1992, "TYPE n TALK" WILL BE PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

2,000 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of 20¢ per copy, for a total cost of $400.00, which includes $400.00 for printing and $.00 for distribution.

For More Information on Services

Return To:
Montana Telecommunications for the Telephone Handicapped
111 North Last Chance Gulch
Helena, Montana 59620

Impairment Type

- ❑ Hard-of-Hearing
- ❑ Deaf
- ❑ Speech Impaired
- ❑ Deaf/Blind (Visually Impaired)

(1) Name of Applicant:_____
Last First MI

(2) Address:_____
Street or Box # City County Zip

To be eligible to receive equipment on loan, an applicant must:
(1) be telephone handicapped; (2) be a resident of Montana; (3) complete an equipment training session; (4) annual gross income of $35,000 or less.

Equipment Type

Amplified Handset - A device that amplifies either incoming sounds for hearing impaired individuals or outgoing sounds for speech impaired individuals.
Artificial Larynx - A hand-held speaking aid that simulates the natural vibrations of voice for people who have lost the use of their larnyx. The user presses the unit against the throat to form words with the mouth to simulate speech.
Puff-Blow Activator - This device provides full telephone service for people with severe motion impairments. The "puff" activator switch uses a breath of air to place, receive or disconnect calls.
Signal Device - A mechanical device that alerts a deaf, deaf-blind, or hard-of-hearing person of an incoming telephone call.
TDD - (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) An electrical device for use with a telephone that utilizes a keyboard. It may also have an acoustic coupler, display screen or braille display to transmit and receive messages.
Telebraille - A two unit system designed for face-to-face and telephone communications through the use of a modified TDD equipped with a typewriter keyboard, visual display, and acoustical coupler, linked to a Braille display with a 20-cell dynamic Braille display.

MONTANA TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FOR THE TELEPHONE HANDICAPPED
111 North Last Chance Gulch
Helena, Montana 59620

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Helena, Montana
Permit No. 246

TO:

State of Montana
Montana State Library
Richard T. Miller Jr.
1515 E 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

3 0864 1005 0385 6
Montana State Library

MTTH

Serving Montana

"TYPE n TALK" *Newsletter*

"providing the right telephone 'tools' to Montana's hearing and speech impaired"

Montana Telecommunications Service for the Telephone Handicapped

TDD, Amplifier, Signal Device, Relay Service